Imprisoned white supremacist's mom wishes he 'kept his mouth shut'

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BY NATASHA KORECKI Staff Reporter January 14, 2014 6:31PM

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Nearly 10 years after her son was sent to prison for ordering a hit on a federal judge, Matt Hale's mother said if there was one thing she could change it would be this: "I wish he would have kept his mouth shut."

Evelyn Hutcheson told the Sun-Times on Tuesday that she believes if her son had not so openly expressed his racist beliefs in rants, he would not have caught the attention of authorities, and his life would have taken on a much different path.

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White supremacist Matt Hale in March 2001

Hale is a white supremacist who is serving a 40-year prison sentence in a SuperMax prison in Florence, Colo., spending his entire days in a cell alone. Hale, 42, who was the self-proclaimed pontifex maximus (highest priest) of a church that preaches hate, was convicted in 2004 of conspiring to solicit a follower to kill a federal judge.

A jury convicted him, and despite years of appeals, Hale's conviction and sentence have been upheld.

Hutcheson said she believes her son is entitled to his beliefs, but had he not so openly expressed them, he would never have had to battle the courts over his law license. That led to not being able to practice law and having too much time alone to talk, she said.

"He would have been practicing law for 10 years" instead of being behind bars right now, she said.

Hale, who recently contacted the Sun-Times through a letter, maintains he is not guilty of putting out a hit on U.S. District Judge Joan Lefkow. His mother blames the severity of his sentence on the timing of Hale's sentencing. He was sentenced in the months following the murder of Lefkow's mother and husband.

"I have hoped these years that Judge Lefkow herself would eventually come to realize that the very government she diligently serves concocted a phony plot against her life and put her in unnecessary fear just to silence me," Hale wrote in the letter to the Sun-Times.

Lefkow had no comment.

Hale's father died last year. His mother, who lives in the Peoria area, is now 75.

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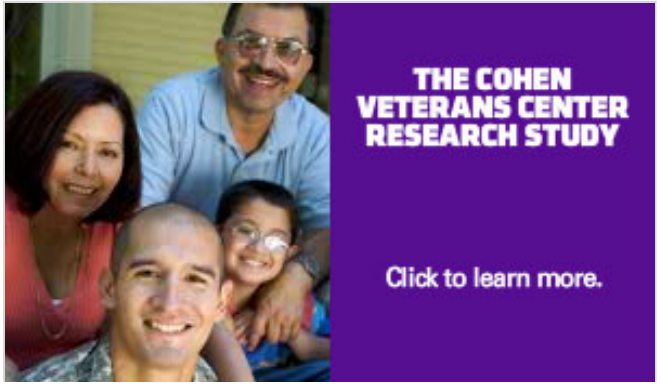

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“When he was young, he did a lot of reading,” she said of her son. “My opinion is, his father was a quiet racist. But I think that Matt knew.”

Hutcheson said her son will continue to appeal his sentence. She helps by typing out “press releases” for him.

“I’m 75 now, so I’ll be dead,” when he gets out of prison, she said. “It’s just a really sad thing.”

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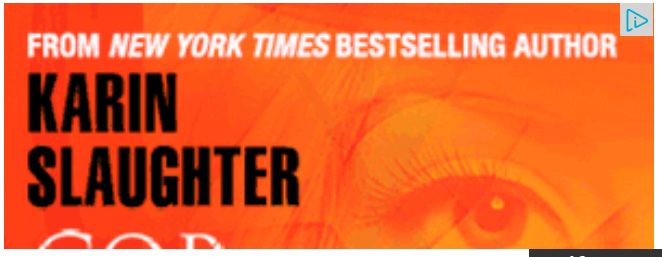

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